



DIODE CONSIDERATIONS

DIODE-TRIODE AND DIODE-PENTODE TUBES

Certain multi-unit tubes contain one or more diode plates, each having its own base pin, in addition to a triode or pentode unit. Such types may employ either a unipotential cathode or a filamentary cathode.

In unipotential-cathode tubes the cathode is common to the triode or pentode unit and the diode(s). In filamentary-cathode tubes the filament is likewise common to the triode or pentode unit and the diode(s). However, in filament types, diode operation is affected by the position of the diode plate(s) with respect to the filament, and, therefore, the position of the diode plate(s) is specified on the individual tube data sheets.

The rectifying action of the diode is commonly used for the following purposes:

Detection: Detection may be accomplished by using either a half-wave or full-wave circuit arrangement to supply signal voltage to the triode or pentode unit of the tube or to another amplifier tube. The half-wave circuit will provide approximately twice the rectified voltage obtainable from a full-wave circuit for the same applied signal voltage. Since the amplitude variation of the envelope of the rectified voltage is usually of greater importance than rectifier power, the half-wave circuit is more commonly used in practice.

AVC: Regulation of amplifier gain, generally called Automatic Volume Control, may be accomplished by using the output of a diode rectifier in a number of ways. The diode output may be applied to the control grids of the preceding amplifier tubes, or it may be applied, in the case of rf pentodes, to their suppressors, plates and/or screens.

The above functions can be performed simultaneously by using a single diode, two diodes in parallel, or by two diodes operating independently. A number of typical circuit arrangements are shown on the following pages.

Average Characteristic Curves for diodes in diode-triode and diode-pentode tubes are shown on the next page.

